

February 12, 2010

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S Rep. Michael Arcuri (NY-24) announced today that the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) of Herkimer, Madison and Oneida Counties has been awarded a \$2.7 million in Recovery Bill funding to implement a six-county Regional Health Care Career Pipeline. The project will serve 2,450 residents across the region and create jobs.

"I was proud to participate in the original discussions with the partners represented in this grant," **Arcuri said**. "The need for the best healthcare providers possible in this region is critical to ensure that residents will have access to the facilities and care that they need. This also means that local residents can receive job training in highly-skilled and highly-valuable jobs for the future of the region. I look forward to the long-term benefits that this funding will have on the entire region."

"We appreciate the efforts of Congressman Arcuri and our New York State Department of Labor in developing this project," **Workforce Investment Board Executive Director Alice J. Savino said**, "We are responding to the needs of employers across the region for employees, and the needs of unemployed adults and dislocated workers for career pathways that provide entry to employment as well as higher-level skills for advancement."

WIB will use the funding to help meet the needs of the region's health care employers while also helping area residents secure the skills needed to find and retain jobs in the high-growth health care sector.

The project includes the following components:

Health Careers / Basic Skills: Mohawk Valley Community College, Herkimer County Community College and Morrisville State College have collaborated to offer an identical

program that combines basic academic, clinical and technology skill modules.

On line / fast track to RN / BSN: SUN Y Delhi will expand its on-line BSN program to increase the numbers of students enrolled. SUNY Institute of Technology will link its fast track RN/BSN program with flexible scheduling and an on-line component to the project.

Nurse Educator: The region's capacity to graduate nurses and aides is limited by an instructor shortage. SUNYIT, which offers the region's main Nurse Educator program, will offer scholarships to help those who take the course part-time finish and be ready to teach, increasing the capacity of trained nurses.

Health Information Technology: Scholarships will be created for high needs health care employees - in collaboration with local employers -- so that they can upgrade their IT skills through SUNY IT's Health Information Technology Program.

Specialty Training: Training scholarships will be funded at all of the health care training providers in the region to help area hospitals, long-term care facilities and other health care sector employers. Scholarships will give a special focus to rural areas across the six-county target area.

The following organizations are involved the continued development of this project:

Chenango-Delaware-Otsego Workforce Investment Board; NY State Dept. of Labor; Oneida County Workforce Development; the Oneida County Dept. of Social Services; Mohawk Valley Community Action; Mohawk Valley Community College; Morrisville State College; Herkimer County Community College; SUNY Institute of Technology; SUNY Delhi; Hartwick College and the Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) serving Oneida, Herkimer, Madison, Delaware, Chenango, Madison, Otsego Counties.

The following healthcare providers are involved in the continued development of this project and will see a direct benefit:

Bassett Healthcare; Presbyterian Home; Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare; Rome Memorial Hospital; Masonic Care Facility; A.O. Fox Hospital; Chenango Memorial Hospital; Delaware Valley Hospital; Robinson Terrace; Robynwood Adult Home; Oneonta Nursing Rehab Center; At Home Care Inc.

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